

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

XMB-02 /093 W

----- 115515

R 280950Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2970

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJ: ALGERIAN PETROLEUM PROSPECTING TO ACCELERATE

1. ON AUGUST 25 SONATRACH PRESIDENT GHOZALI TOLD ME
ALGERIANS PLANNING MARKED UPTURN IN PACE OF OIL AND GAS
PROSPECTING. ALGERIANS NOW HAVE 70 DRILLING RIGS
OPERATING AND PLAN TO BRING IN ANOTHER 50 TO 60. OF THESE,
20 TO 30 WILL BE PURCHASED. AGREEMENT ALREADY SIGNED
WITH US STEEL FOR SOME OF THEM. OTHERS WILL BE
PURCHASED FROM OTHER COMPANIES. ANOTHER 30 WILL BE
RENTED COMPLETE WITH CREWS OVER THREE TO FOUR YEAR
PERIOD. THIS LARGE PACKAGE WILL RAISE PROBLEM OF
FINANCING. ALGERIANS HOPED EXIM WOULD BE HELPFUL.

2. COMMENT: PROPOSED EXPANSION WOULD REPRESENT
CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT FOR ALGERIANS, PROBABLY ON ORDER
OF DOLS 100-DOLS 150 MILLION FOR DRILLING RIGS TO BE
PURCHASED PLUS ADDITIONAL DOLS 150 MILLION PER YEAR
TO RENT THIRTY RIGS AND CREWS. QUESTION IMMEDIATELY
COMES TO MIND AS TO WHETHER ALGERIANS CAN MAN AND
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SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE THIS MANY RIGS. TRAINING PROGRAM

FOR DRILLING TECHNICIANS NOW UNDERWAY, BUT WE ARE
INFORMED THAT FORESEEABLE SUPPLY OF TRAINED MANPOWER
INSUFFICIENT FOR MAJOR EXPANSION OF EXPLORATION
PROGRAM EVEN GIVEN LONG LEAD TIME BEFORE ANY NEW RIGS
WOULD ACTUALLY ARRIVE IN COUNTRY.

PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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